

***Acoustics Task Force  
briefing for  
National Dredging  
Team***



# Background

- *Formed a little over two years ago*
- NOAA involved since about 2004, holding two symposia, one in 2004 and another in 2007
- Authority comes under the Marine Mammal Protection Act
- There are over 90,000 ships larger than 100 gross tons
- NOAA has lead with participation from
  - Marine Mammal Commission
  - Minerals Management Service
  - National Science Foundation



# **Background Cont'd**

**Corps of Engineers**

**Coast Guard**

**Navy**

**Dept of Energy**

**State Department**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**



# Species Affected

- ***Whales***
- ***Seals and Sea Lions***
- **Porpoises**
- **Dolphins**
- **Manatees**
- **And fish in general**



# Overall Goals

- *Identify scientific and technical requirements*
- **Strengthen coordination among Federal agencies**
- **Develop an Interagency science and technology course of action**



# Progress

- *Lots of meetings over the past two years*
- **Reports to the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST)**
- **Developed a report in mid 2008, “Potential Application of Vessel-Quieting Technology on Large Commercial Vessels”**
- **Submitted a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in Dec 2007**



# Progress

- ***Attended and submitted papers at the International Workshop on Shipping Noise and Marine Mammals in Hamburg, Germany, Apr 2008***
- **Issued the report “Addressing the Effects of Human-Generated Sound on Marine Life: An Integrated Research Plan for U.S. Federal Agencies,” in Oct 2008**

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COE, CG, USN, DOE,  
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# Next Steps

- *Identify scientific and technical requirements related to vessel quieting systems*
- **Strengthen coordination among Federal agencies**
- **Conduct further research on response of marine mammals to anthropogenic sound**

